

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 R

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TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: CU/ARTS:SONGSMITH JAMES DURST

REF: QUITO 2145; LIMA 2592

1. DEPT (CU/ARTS) PLANNING SEND AIRGRAM TO ALL ARA POSTS SHORTLY ON DURST'S PLANS FOR FALL TOUR WITH FULL DETAILS. DURST RECEIVED B (GOOD) RATING AT MARCH 28 MEETING OF DEPT'S PANEL ON FOLK MUSIC AND JAZZ BASED ON TAPESUBMITTED.

2. EA POST REPORTS RANGE FROM EXCELLENT (SINGAPORE); TO MIXED (BANGKOK). MAIN CRITICISMS WERE THAT DURST CAN BE TEMPERAMENTAL AND SINGS MAINLY HIS OWN COMPOSITIONS. ALL POSTS BELIEVED MORE VARIETY WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE. IN ADDITION AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR REPORTED DURST CAN BE "SOMEWHAT TAKEN WITH HIMSELF AND THEREFORE CAN BE PRETENTIOUS,
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ASSUMING, AT TIMES DEMANDING, AND ULTIMATELY BORING TO

THOSE WHO MUST WORK WITH HIM OVER LONG PERIOD OF TIME. HE
NONETHELESS CAN BE AN ATTRACTIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF A
CERTAIN ASPECT OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN MUSICAL CULTURE..."

3. BANGKOK " FOUND DURST A GOOD FOLK GUITARIST WITH A
PLEASANT VOICE WHO QUICKLY ESTABLISHED RAPPORT WITH HIS
AUDIENCES. HE DID BETTER WITH OTHER FOLKSINGERS' WORKS

THAN HIS OWN...BY SPELLING OUT GROUND RULES EARLY ON
DURST WAS BASICALLY EASY TO HANDLE AND HIS VEGETARIANISM
CREATED NO UNDUE PROBLEMS."

4. DURST'S SPECIALTY IS PICKING UP LANGUAGE OF COUNTRY
AND JOINING WITH LOCAL FOLKSINGERS.

5. ADVISE CU/ARTS IF INTERESTED IN VIEW ABOVE QUALIFICA-
TIONS. DEPT WILL SEND DETAILS AS KNOWN. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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